



NEWS RELEASE

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\$3.8 Million Funding For Kansas Community Facility Projects Announced By USDA Rural Development

Nearly 9,000 Rural Kansans Will Benefit From Approved Projects

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency has approved applications totaling over \$3.8 million under the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*, for seven projects serving nearly 9,000 rural Kansans.

"These loan and grant programs are a tremendous tool available to rural communities to assist in developing new or enhancing existing facilities for public safety, public service and health care. The benefits of the programs through low interest rates and longer than commercially available loan terms can significantly enhance the viability of needed community facility projects," State Director Chuck Banks said. Grant funds may be available to assist in the economic feasibility of the project.

USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Program* is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Through its *Community Facilities Program*, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

Today's funding announcement, split between \$3,696,400 in loans and \$125,800 in grants, will support the construction of seven important community projects that will provide long-term benefits to these communities and service areas. Specifically, the seven projects approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

City of Lyons, KS - \$3,276,400 (direct loan) Agency funds will be used to replace all the existing pipe associated with the City's natural gas system, benefiting a population of 3,732. Agency funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$67,000.

Chase County Commission - \$300,000 (direct loan) Funding of this project, benefiting over 3,000 county residents upon completion, will be used to install an ADA accessible elevator and restroom in the courthouse. Agency funds will be leveraged with tax credits of \$300,000, and a Jones Trust contribution of \$210,000.

(continued)

City of Moline, KS - \$205,000 (\$120,000 direct loan & \$85,000 grant) Agency funds will be used to construct a new 8,000 square foot city building. The new facility will be used for city hall and a fire station, benefiting a population of 457. Agency funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$30,000.

City of Mound Valley – \$12,600 (grant) Funds will be used to purchase and install a new storm siren, serving a population of 418. Agency funds will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$4,208.

City of Chautauqua – \$10,600 (grant) Funding for this new storm siren will benefit over 100 residents. Agency funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$3,575.

City of Burden, KS - \$9,800 (grant) Funds will be used to purchase and install a new storm siren, serving a population of 564. Agency funds will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$8,130.

City of Dearing – \$7,800 (grant) Funds will be used to purchase and install a new storm siren, serving a population of 415. Agency funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$6,450.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past five years alone, the Agency's *Community Facilities Program* has assisted 500,000 rural Kansans and contributing over \$24 million in added growth to the Sunflower State's economy. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit for the entire State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding this program, contact the nearest USDA Rural Development Area office at Iola (620-365-2901); Manhattan (785-775-7582); or Hays (785-628-3081); or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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